

## Message Text

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17

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 /068 W

----- 097216

P R 190950Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4469

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO CDR JCRC SAMAE SAN THAI

CDR USSAG/7TH AF NKP

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DOA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 4374

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT FOR D/PW - SIEVERTS

SECDEF FOR DR. SHIELDS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJ: SUSPENSION OF JCRC FUNCTION IN LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 4238

1. TO MEET THE MINIMUM RESIDUAL STAFFING LEVEL WHICH THIS MISSION HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ADOPT, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TERMINATE AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING THE POSITION IN DAO/LAOS COMPLEMENT (BUT OPERATING UNDER DIRECTION OF AMBASSADOR AND WITH GUIDANCE FROM POLITICAL SECTION) OF JCRC LIAISON OFFICER/SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR FOR MISSING-IN-ACTION MATTERS. POSITION IS CURRENTLY FILLED BY COLONEL LUTHER C. VAUGHN, USA.

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2. WE TAKE THIS ACTION WITH REGRET, BOTH BECAUSE WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CASUALTY RESOLUTION PROGRAM AND BECAUSE COLONEL VAUGHN IS A FINE OFFICER WHO HAS CARRIED OUT HIS REGULAR DUTIRES IN A MOST COMPETENT MANNER AND HAS ALSO ASSISTED MISSION IN OTHER WAYS DURING ITS RAPID DRAWDOWN OVER RECENT WEEKS.

3. PRESENT UNSTABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE, HOWEVER, PRECLUDES ANY NEAR-TERM POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTIVE WORK IN CASUALTY RESOLUTION FIELD. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE MOVEMENT IN PAST YEAR EXCEPT ON THOSE RELATIVELY PERIPHERAL ASPECTS ON WHICH USG COULD ACT UNILATERALLY; LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) HAS DONE NOTHING ITSELF (REFTEL) AND PERMITTED US TO DO NOTHING IN AREAS IT CONTROLS OR THAT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED ITS COOPERATION. FURTHERMORE, WE MUST ALLOW FOR STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT LPF OR LAO GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE WILL SHORTLY ADOPT POLICY IDENTICAL TO THAT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY HANOI: I.E., THAT THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS IN CASUALTY RESOLUTION FIELD UNTIL USG PROVIDES RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE AS CONTEMPLATED IN ARTICLE 21 OF 1973 PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FUTURE OF JCRC ITSELF, AND OF ITS ONE REMAINING LIAISON OFFICER (VIENTIANE) OUTSIDE THAILAND, IS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON. WE ARE AWARE ALSO OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF WHOLE SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY FOR RELATIVES OF MIAs. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE TERMINATION OF JCRC FUNCTION IN LAOS CANNOT AWAIT OUTCOME OF WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS AND MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY POSSIBLE STATESIDE REACTION. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE SCHEDULED COLONEL VAUGHN FOR DEPARTURE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 23.

5. WE SHALL OF COURSE, REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH PGNU AND LPF OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT OF CASUALTY RESOLUTION AND, AT SUCH TIME AS WE JUDGE SITUATION WILL PERMIT A RESUMPTION, WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO CALL FOR RETURN OF JCRC PRESENCE ON TDY OR PCS BASIS AS APPROPRIATE.

6. MEANWHILE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT COLONEL VAUGHN  
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(WHOSE FAMILY IS STILL IN TEMPORARY QUARTERS AT SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII) BE REASSIGNED ELSEWHERE FOR A REGULAR TOUR OF DUTY CONSISTENT WITH HIS CAREER PROJECTION. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THERE IS SUFFICIENT PROSPECT OF EARLY RESUMPTION OF CASUALTY RESOLUTION WORK IN LAOS TO WARRANT HIS STAYING AT JCRC HEADQUARTERS ON TEMPORARY BASIS.  
CHAPMAN

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## Message Attributes

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